

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 CU-05 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 /111 W

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R 220900Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5516

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, KS, JA

SUBJECT: DEMONSTRATIONS HELD AT JAPANESE EMBASSY AND CITY HALL

REF: SEOUL 5444

1. ACCORDING TO AFTERNOON AUG 22 RADIO REPORTS, EDUCATION
MINISTRY HAS INSTRUCTED SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS TO DISCOURAGE
NEW STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS. TWO NON-VIOLENT, RELATIVELY
ORGANIZED PROTEST GATHERINGS HAD BEEN HELD DURING MORNING
OUTSIDE JAPANESE EMBASSY AND IN FRONT OF SEOUL CITY HALL.
A THIRD INVOLVED EHWA HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS IN AFTERNOON MARCH
TOWARD JAPANESE EMBASSY.

2. DEMONSTRATIONS AT JAPANESE EMBASSY CONSISTED OF
ESTIMATED 1,000 BOYS FROM CHUNGANG HIGH SCHOOL (WHICH
PRES. PARK'S SON ATTENDS) AND KYONGHEE HIGH SCHOOL.
STUDENTS CARRIED SIGNS CALLING ON JAPANESE TO COOPERATE
WITH ROK IN MUN SE KWANG INVESTIGATION; TO STOP
DESTRUCTIVE ACTIVITIES OF CHOSÉN SOREN; AND TO STOP
INTERFERENCE IN KOREAN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS.

3. GATHERING AT CITY HALL INCLUDED THREE KOREAN

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ORGANIZATIONS - ONE FOR DISABLED VETERANS (SOME OF

WHOM WERE IN WHEELCHAIRS); ASSOCIATION FOR BEREAVED FAMILIES AND ASSOCIATION OF WAR WIDOWS. SLOGANS APPEARED TO ECHO THOSE OBSERVED AT JAPANESE EMBASSY THOUGH AT CITY HALL PROTEST LEAFLETS WERE ALSO SCATTERED.

4. AFTERNOON RADIO REPORTED 300 EHWA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT DEMONSTRATORS KNOCKED DOWN GATES OF SCHOOL AT 1:30 P.M. AND MARCHED TOWARD JAPANESE EMBASSY WHERE THEY WERE INTERCEPTED BY SEOUL RIOT POLICE AND DISPERSED WITHOUT FURTHER INCIDENT.

5. COMMENT: HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO SHOW EXTREME IRRITATION OVER GOJ'S "LACK OF COOPERATION" AND "INSENSITIVITY" REGARDING ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON PRESIDENT PARK AND MADAME PARK'S DEATH. WE HAVE CONFLICTING REPORTS ON WHETHER STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS ARE GOVT-INSPIRED (OTHERS ARE ALMOST CERTAINLY). SOME NON-GOVERNMENT SOURCES ALSO INDICATE THERE IS A SIGNIFICANT MEASURE OF PUBLIC RESENTMENT OVER ALLEGED JAPANESE FONOFF COMMENT TO EFFECT GOJ HAS NO LEGAL OR MORAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRAGIC INCIDENT.

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